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INFO RUEHKK/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JERUSALEM 002086

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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (11/20): Popular Campaign Against Settlements; PA Rejects Temporary Borders

Main Stories:

-----Al Citing Ma'an and Reuters, independent daily Al-Quds quotes jailed Fatah leader, Marwan Barghouti, saying that Palestinian-Israeli negotiations have failed. He called for a popular campaign against settlements and urged Palestinians to apply a mix of diplomatic and popular action as well as other means to achieve statehood. He also called on Hamas to end the internal state of division, which he referred to as "a crime against the nation" and restore national unity.

- The Palestinian Authority's (PA) official daily, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, reports on the statement by Mohammad Nasr, member of the Hamas political bureau, that Hamas will not sign the Egyptian national reconciliation proposal.

- Independent daily Al-Ayyam leads with President Mahmoud Abbas reiterating that his decision not to run in the next elections is a "final" one. During an interview with BBC in Amman, Abbas said that Hamas is conducting secret negotiations with Israel in Geneva for a state with temporary borders.

- In an exclusive interview with Al-Ayyam, Yasser Abed Rabbo, Secretary General of the PLO Executive Committee, stated that the PA will not consider any proposal that fails to include a complete cessation of settlement activities or which allows for temporary borders.

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Al Al-Quds reports on Nabil Shaath, Fatah Central Committee member, reiterating that the Arab States are assisting the PA in its attempt to get the UNSC to adopt a resolution recognizing an independent Palestinian state.

Al Al Quds and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida lead with continued reporting on settlement construction. Al-Hayat Al-Jadida quotes Arab-Israeli Knesset member, Ahmad Tibi, regarding GOI plans to construct 15,000 Israeli housing units in "occupied" Jerusalem. Al-Quds, citing Khalil Tufakji a Palestinian expert in settlements affairs, reports that under a plan endorsed by the GOI in 1996, Israel will construct more than 48,000 housing units (to accommodate 500,000 settlers) in Jerusalem by 2020. Al-Quds also front pages that "In light of U.S. pressure... Israel postpones the release of a tender to construct 1500 housing units in Jerusalem" in Har Homa and Pisgat Ze'ev.

- Ma'an and the dailies report on the arrest of an Israeli teenager, by Israeli police, for stabbing a 42-year-old Palestinian in East Jerusalem. According to reports, the teenager attacked the man while he was at a bus stop.

- The dailies and Ma'an report on the announcement by the Palestinian Telecommunications Company (PalTel) that it cancelled its agreement with Jordan's Zain Telecommunication Network due to Zain's inability to fulfill basic conditions of the agreement.

Pa Ma'an reports that Palestine was allocated a postal code by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) following successful talks with UPU in Berne, Switzerland. The issuance of the postal code will help guarantee the independence of the Palestinian postal system when it is re-launched, making it distinct from the Israeli system.

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BLOCK QUOTES:

RRajab Abu Sirriyeh opines in independent daily Al-Ayyam under the title "Abu Mazen... a different leadership figure" (11/20): "In his announcement not to run in the next elections, Abbas seems very serious and intent ... his ultimate goal at this juncture is to achieve national unity and end the internal division...he is willing to sacrifice running if this will achieve national unity".

-----PALESTINIAN CYBERSPACE:

Palestinian social media scene (Twitter and Facebook) has mocked the U.S. Government's response to Israel's announcement of the construction of 900 new units in Gilo, specifically the choice of "dismay." Also circulating are reports on American Jews traveling to Jerusalem to join settlers in a cornerstone ceremony for future Jewish settlements. (Reference to USG's response to new settlements: <http://ow.ly/DB2g>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7REFp3YDkc>; Cornerstone ceremony: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5L_PilOjjes.)

Cartoons of the Week:

1) Independent daily Al-Ayyam on November 16 showed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu trying to decide which unilateral steps to take in response to the PA's move to seek international recognition of a Palestinian state. The caption reads: Israel and its future steps!?

2) On November 17, Al-Quds ran an illustration of the anticipated Palestinian state as scattered islands in the sea: Ramallah appears with the Palestinian flag; Jenin, Nablus, etc., have no geographic contiguity.

RUBINSTEIN